

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 14-238

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Determination Regarding Generation Assets

SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER OF NOTICE

The Commission opened this docket in response to 2014 HB 1602, “an act relative to the divestiture of PSNH assets.” HB 1602 directed the Commission to “commence and expedite a proceeding to determine whether all or some of PSNH’s generation assets should be divested.” Now pending before the Legislature is SB 221, “an act relative to electric rate reduction financing.” SB221 contains a finding “that divestiture of PSNH’s generation plants and securitization of any resulting stranded costs ... is in the public interest,” directs the Commission to “review the 2015 settlement proposal and determine whether its terms and conditions are in the public interest,” and grants authority to securitize stranded costs that result from divestiture.

On June 10, 2015, a number of parties to this docket and others (the Settling Parties) filed a *Joint Motion for Expedited Approval of Settlement Agreement and Rate Adjustments* (Motion), and attached the *2015 Public Service Company of New Hampshire Restructuring and Rate Stabilization Agreement* (Agreement). The Agreement is the “2015 settlement proposal” referenced in SB 221.¹ The Motion asks the Commission to “afford expedited treatment to its review” of the Agreement and proposes a procedural schedule. The Settling Parties’ schedule provides for discovery and contemplates a final Commission decisional order by the end of 2015,

¹ “Should SB221 not be enacted, such event shall be a failure of a condition precedent to the effectiveness of this Agreement.” Agreement at 27.

“which would permit PSNH to begin the generation divestiture process in early 2016.” Motion at 8.

Non-advocate Staff (Staff) responded to the Motion with an alternative schedule proposal, filed on June 17, 2015. Staff’s proposal calls for an auction of PSNH’s assets prior to the end of 2015 “to inform the analysis of Staff and other parties prior to a final Commission determination regarding divestiture.” Staff proposed a hearing on the merits in early February 2016.

Pursuant to the terms of this supplemental order of notice, the Commission will hold a prehearing conference regarding this matter, docketed in DE 14-238, on July 9, 2015. Any non-parties wishing to intervene shall file requests with the Commission on or before July 7, 2015, with any objections to those requests filed by July 9, 2015.

At the prehearing conference, the Commission will first hear argument on any requests for intervention and objections to those requests, consolidation of any intervenors, their access to data regarding PSNH’s generation assets, and treatment of confidential data. The Commission will also take comment regarding the proposed schedules and, in particular, the timing of any auction that may occur. The Commission encourages the parties to confer regarding the timing of an auction in advance of the prehearing conference, and, if feasible, to file a stipulation regarding the same.

The Motion, Agreement, Staff’s response, and all other docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission’s website at <http://www.puc.nh.gov>.

In addition to the issues previously noticed in this docket, the Motion raises, *inter alia*, issues related to: the provisions of SB 221; whether divestiture, either under the terms and

conditions of the Agreement or otherwise, is in the public interest; the impact of divestiture on (i) all PSNH customer classes, (ii) the economy in PSNH's service territory, and (iii) the ability of our State's enterprises, across industries, to attract and retain employment; how PSNH's generation plants should be divested, if the decision to divest is made by the Commission; whether and how stranded costs should be securitized in such an instance; the appropriate rate design to fairly allocate the costs of divestiture among customer classes; and the procedural schedule to accomplish the above. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a prehearing conference, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire, on July 9, 2015, at 9:00 a.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15; and it is

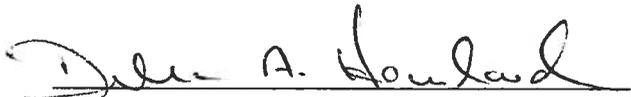
FURTHER ORDERED, that, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, Eversource shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than June 30, 2015, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before July 7, 2015; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to the service list on or before July 7, 2015, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other substantial

interest may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32, I (b); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before July 9, 2015.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-sixth day of June, 2015.



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.